

Safety



- In February 2003, DLR/CPS and information technology personnel completed the Investigative Assessment module for DLR/CPS referrals.
- In compliance with the Kids Come First Action Agenda, DLR/CPS investigators complete safety assessments on all children living in a licensed foster home or child care home including: adopted and guardianship children. When safety concerns arise, DLR/CPS works with the family to develop a safety plan for the entire family.
- DLR/CPS and the Quality Assurance team created a peer review tool to review compliance with practice standards. In FY03, the tool was piloted in two of six regions. Each region will undergo a peer review every six months.

Objective: Increase safety for children placed in out-of-home care

Measured by: Children who are abused or neglected in licensed care

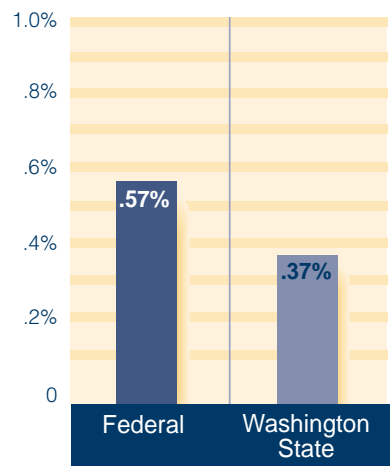
The Children's Administration is committed to making every effort to ensure that children who come into state licensed care as the result of abuse or neglect at the hands of their caregivers are protected from further harm in out-of-home placement.

In Calendar Year 2002, more than 6,200 foster homes were available to provide necessary care and support to children who could not remain in the care of their own families. In those 6,284 homes there were 890 allegations of abuse or neglect representing allegations in approximately 14 percent of licensed foster homes.

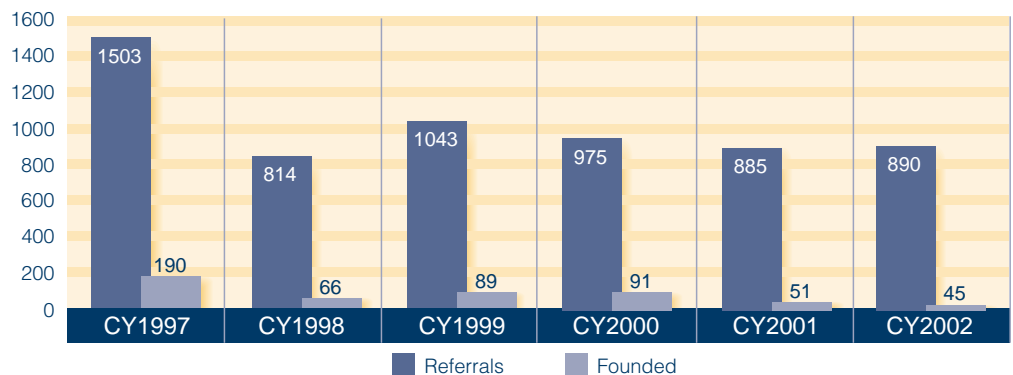
Those referrals that were "founded", meaning that the allegation of abuse or neglect was more likely than not to have occurred represented less than 1 percent of licensed foster homes, or a total of 45 founded allegations.

Substantiated allegations of child abuse or neglect in licensed care has decreased by nearly 76 percent since tracking of this measure began in 1997.

Percent of Children Abused or Neglected While in Out-of-Home Placement



Allegations of Abuse or Neglect of Children in Licensed Care*



* Handcount of the number of referrals to DLR Child Abuse and Neglect Section and the number, upon investigation, which were found more likely than not to have occurred.

News Advisory, March 2004

Performance Report, 2003